

iii. a second conductive element in electrical communication with the positive electrode, and in removable electrical communication with the first conductive element, wherein the second conductive element is in mechanical communication with the flexible member; and

wherein the first and second conductive elements are removed from electrical communication when the flexible member flexes towards the second position in response to an internal pressure exceeding a predetermined threshold during charging.

2. (Amended) The electrochemical cell as recited in claim 1, wherein the flexible member returns to the first position from the second position when the internal pressure drops below the predetermined threshold.

3. (Amended) The electrochemical cell as recited in claim 1, wherein the second conductive element is connected to the flexible member and at least partially axially aligned with the first conductive element, and wherein the second conductive element is displaced axially outwardly when the flexible member is in the second position.

4. (Amended) The electrochemical cell as recited in claim 1, further comprising a nonconductive spring member disposed between the terminal cap and the flexible member to limit the amount of flexible member displacement and to impose a pre-disposed spring force for maintaining contact between the first and second conductive elements.

5. (Amended) The cell as recited in claim 1, wherein the flexible member defines a radially inwardly extending cavity at its periphery, the cavity including distal ends of the end cap and first conductive element.

6. (Amended) The cell as recited in claim 5, wherein the can is crimped over the flexible member to seal the open end of the cell.

8. (Amended) The cell as recited in claim 1, further comprising a stop washer disposed axially downstream of the first conductive element for limiting axial movement of the first conductive element when the flexible member is in the second position.

10. (Amended) The electrochemical cell as recited in claim 1, wherein the flexible member separates the internal cavity of the can from a second internal cavity disposed within the end cap, the cell further comprising an opening extending through the

*R3 cont*

flexible member to provide a conduit between the internal cavity of the can and the second internal cavity;

*R4*

23. (Amended) The electrochemical cell as recited in claim 1, wherein the second conductive element further comprises:

a first contact having one end extending from the positive electrode, and a second end opposite the first end;

a second contact extending through the flexible member having a first end in contact with the second end of the first contact, and a second end opposite the first end; and

a third contact having a first end in contact with the second end of the second contact, and a second end opposite the first end and in removable contact with the first conductive element.

*R5*

30. (Amended) The charging system as recited in claim 29, wherein the switch further comprises a flexible member connected to the first contact and configured to bias the first contact away from the second contact.

*R6*

38. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the anode and cathode disposed in the internal cavity, a terminal end cap enclosing the open end in removable electrical communication with the cathode, and a switch controlling the electrical communication between the terminal end cap and the cathode.